



School and Community Food Gardens Engaging Children Action Plan

Summary of Priority Goals and Objectives:

1. **Increase Data Collection:** Continue and increase data collected about the current climate for school and community gardens that engage children and youth in Ontario so as to develop more comprehensive information and statistics about on-the ground gardening projects.
2. Advance advocacy and actions to support:
 - a. **Increased opportunities for project funding**
 - i. Respondents noted external sources of funding are critical for tools, equipment and staffing.
 - b. **Increased awareness of good collaborative practices and networking to foster partnerships**
 - i. Multi-stakeholder projects are most successful.
 - ii. We should build on existing networks and conference opportunities to share good practices and learn from one another / foster new projects and alliances.
 - c. **Increased dialogue with planners and policy makers to understand how and why to include food gardens in community planning**
 - i. Respondents noted that it would be valuable for municipal and provincial community planning to prioritize food gardening as a use of public space.
 - d. **Increased access to food growing infrastructure (ie, water, fencing other items) and planning supports (soil testing & safe construction practices) in communities:**
 - i. Respondents noted that infrastructure to support food production in public spaces is important to support new project growth and relieve the burden on community groups to fundraise externally for these items.
 - e. **Recommendations to government**
 - i. School food gardens should be employed to advance established policy goals, at the provincial and local level, in the area of environmental education and how existing frameworks support their development and expansion.
 - ii. Specific recommendations are outlined in the table below.

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For the Ontario Edible Education Network's full School and Community Food Gardens Engaging Children Action Plan, as well as other Action Planning documents, please visit <http://www.sustainontario.com/initiatives/ontario-edible-education-network>.